

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

BOARD OF ETHICS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Laurel, Maryland

The Board of Ethics ("Board") met in person to conduct an Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings Act, § 3-305(b)(13).

Chair George Pruden called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. with the following members present:

George Pruden II, Chair  
Steven Hausman, Member (Virtual)  
Jeffrey Hysen, Member (Virtual)  
Chandria Slaughter, Alternate Member.

Also present:

Angelique Dorsey White, Ethics Officer  
Heather Ashbury, Interim Legal Counsel to the Board  
Tamika Taylor, Associate General Counsel of the Office of Inspector General  
Latonya Allen, Administrative Assistant.

**Open Session**

**Ethics Program Monthly Report**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on the activities in the Ethics Office for February 2024. She reported that she provided ethics training to 20 new employees as part of the onboarding process.

Ms. Dorsey White shared that the Ethics Office provided guidance on 12 matters. The category that received the most inquiries was Disclosure Statements.

Lastly, Ms. Dorsey White stated that she presented the Ethics Spotlight, “Political Activity” at the February 21, 2024 Commission Meeting. She added that the report was well received and the Commissioners had no questions.

**CY 2023 Ethics Program Annual Report (Draft)**

Ms. Dorsey White presented a draft of the annual ethics report. She stated that the final report is due to the Commissioners on March 29, 2024. The Board reviewed the draft and suggested some minor edits. They agreed that additional time was needed for a thorough review and requested that Ms. Dorsey White send the revised report to them by March 19, 2024. The Board also agreed to provide any additional edits to Ms. Dorsey White by March 22, 2024.

Chair Pruden also mentioned that he will be presenting the report at the April 17, 2024 Commission meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to approve the Calendar Year 2023 annual report subject to additional edits and signature of Chair Pruden.

**Delinquent Financial Disclosure Filer(s)**

Ms. Allen reported that there were no delinquent financial disclosure filers.

**Closed Session Approval**

At 1:21 p.m., on motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Open Meetings

Act, § 3-305(b)(13) to address one Complaint; and General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to obtain legal advice regarding one Complaint, and Potential Complaints/Legal Investigations.

**Attendees:** Chair George Pruden; Member Steven Hausman (Virtual); Member Jeffrey Hysen (Virtual); and Alternate Member Chandria Slaughter. Staff present: Ethics Officer Angelique Dorsey White; Interim Legal Counsel to the Board Heather Ashbury; Administrative Assistant Latonya Allen; and Retained Legal Counsel to the Board Margaret Ann Nolan.

**Closed Session**

**Closed Session Minutes**

There were no minutes for review.

**Project Cornerstone Report Referrals**

Ms. Dorsey White provided an update on these matters.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to recommend to the Commissioners that the referral report be shared with the Inspector General.

**Potential Complaints / Legal Investigations**

Mr. Ashbury provided updates on current legal investigations.

**Complaint C-23-01**

Due to Ms. Dorsey White and Ms. Ashbury being recused from Complaint C-23-01, they left the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Retained Legal Counsel Margaret Ann Nolan joined the meeting at 2:07 p.m.


The Board discussed this case.

On motion of Dr. Hausman and seconded by Mr. Hysen, three members of the Board (Hausman, Hysen, and Pruden) voted to issue a written decision and final order finding the Respondent to have committed ethics violations.

Ms. Nolan left the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Mr. Hysen and seconded by Dr. Hausman, three members of the Board (Hysen, Hausman, and Pruden) voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

  
Angelique Dorsey White Esq.  
Ethics Officer